Demonstration by All India Kisan Sabha

2830 SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a protest demonstration before the AIR Station and Doordarshan Kendra, Jallandhar, by the All India Kisan Sabha and All India Agricultural Workers Union during past two months; and

(b) if so, the cause of such demonstration and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The demonstration was held in front of All India Radio Jallandhar Station on 11th September, 1987 by the Punjab Kisan Sabha and the Punjab Kheti Majdoor Union Workers for alleged partiality in news coverage about their 'andolan'. Items in All India Radio bulletins are included on the basis of news value and their news worthiness The 'andolan' was a week-long affair and was suitably covered on the 11th September, '87 by All India Radio, Chandigarh as there is no regional news unit at All India Radio, Jallandhar. The protest demonstration against All India Radio, Jallandhar was also cited in the news bulletin on the same day.

Satyagraha by All India Kisan Sabha

2831 SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state·

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the All India Kisan Sabha and the All India Agricultural Workers Union had jointly organised country-wise Satyagraha from 7th September to 18th September, 1987 to Government's attention towards their burning problems;

(b) whether Doordarshan and All India Radio gave coverage to the said Satyagraha; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This 'Satyagraha' was adequately noticed in the various news bulletins of All India Radio and Doordarshan.

(c) Information in respect of the coverage given by all All India Radio stations and Doordarshan Kendras in their news bulletins is not available centrally in a complied form However, for example, Doordarshan Kendra, Jallandhar carried the story on 6-9-87 and on 7.9-87 and Calcutta on 8-9-87. All India Radio Madras gave coverage on 7th September 87, All India Radio, Vijayawada between 7th and 11th September. All India Radio Jaipur on 7th September and 11th September and All India Radio Chandigarh on 11th September, 1987.

Assistance to Spice Growers

2832. SHRI R. T GOPALAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state·

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to assist the growers of major spices in the country in the event of acute water scarcity problems caused by drought;

(b) whether the spices Board had made certain proposals to Government in this direction; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken on the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE